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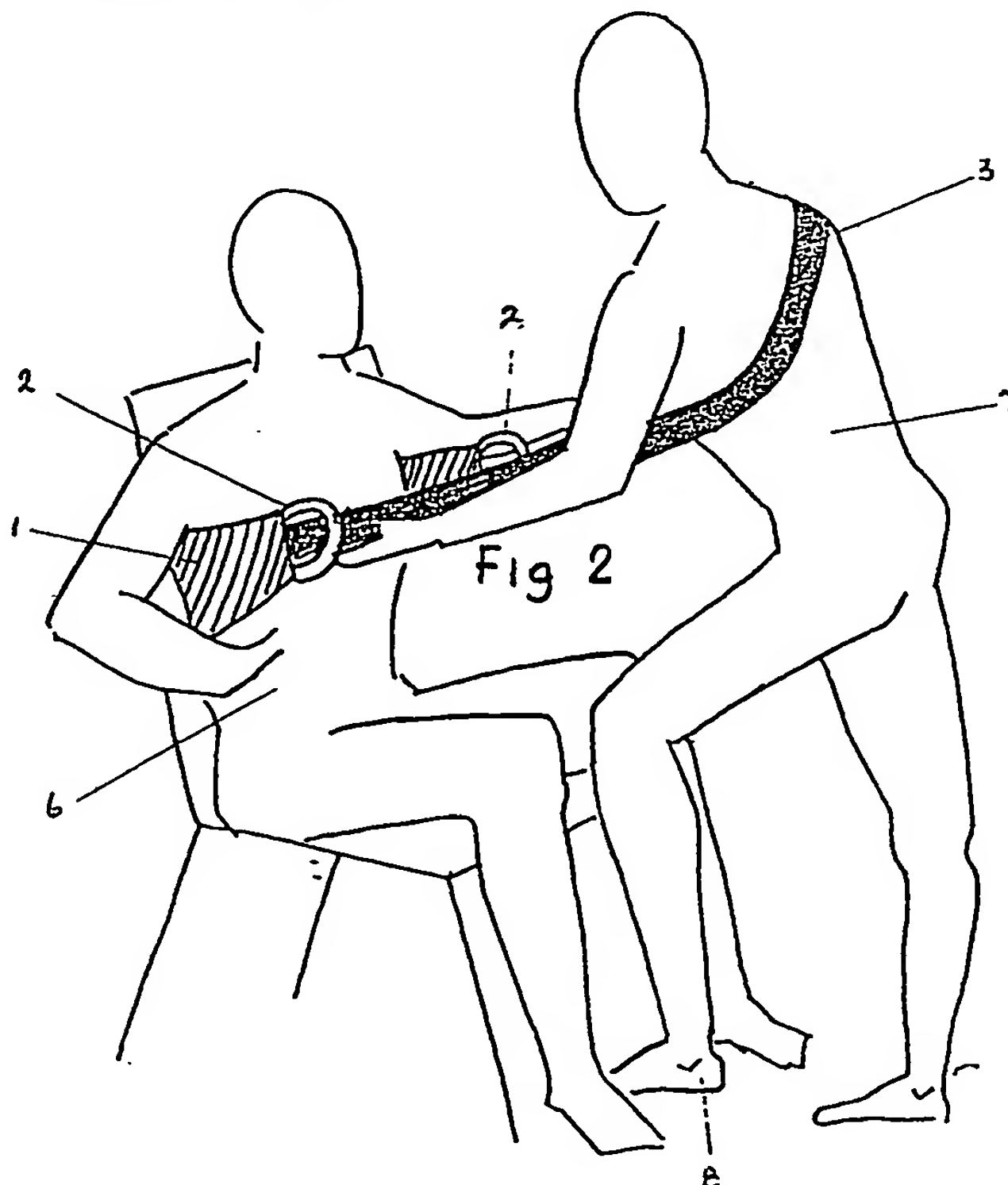
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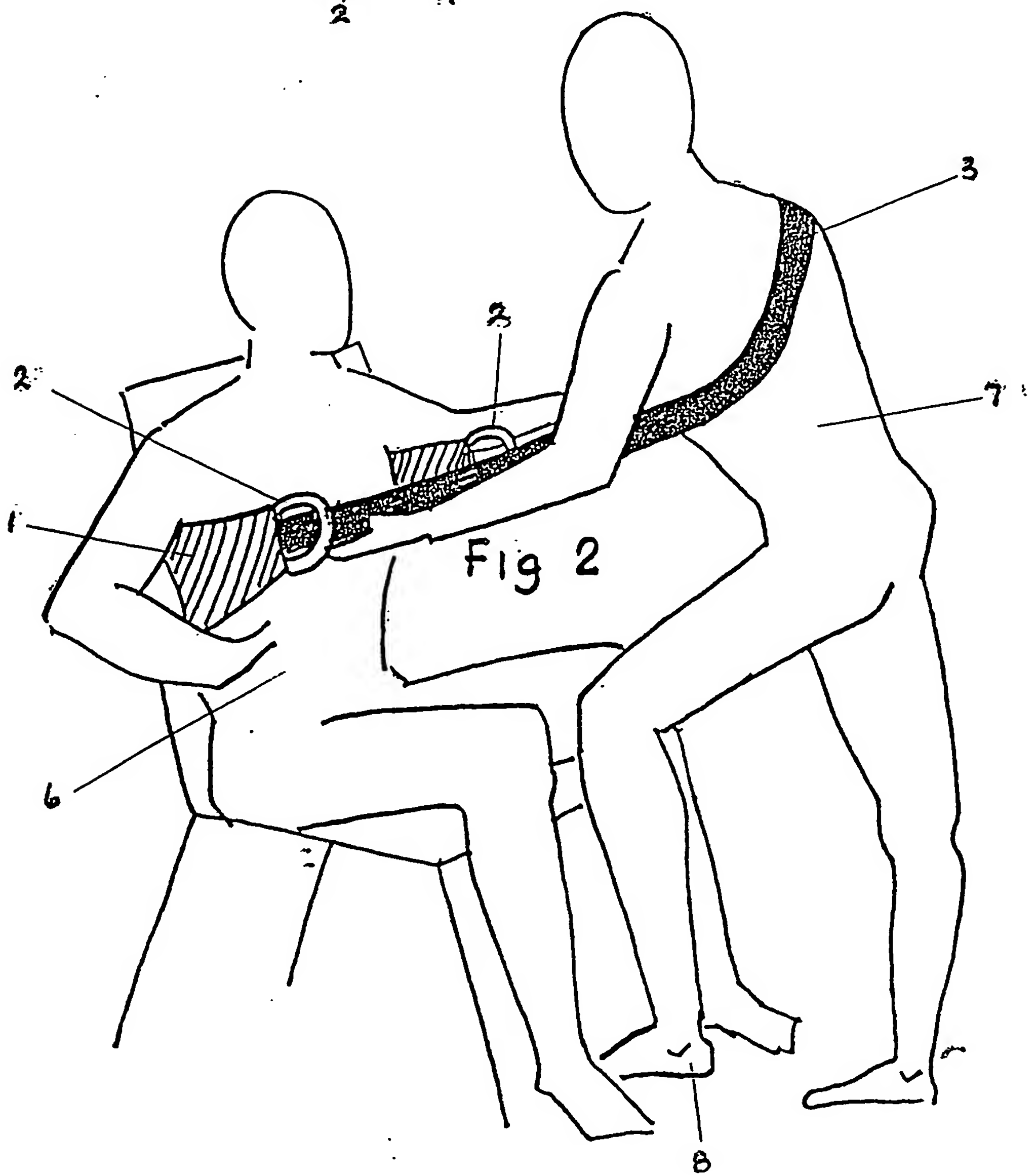
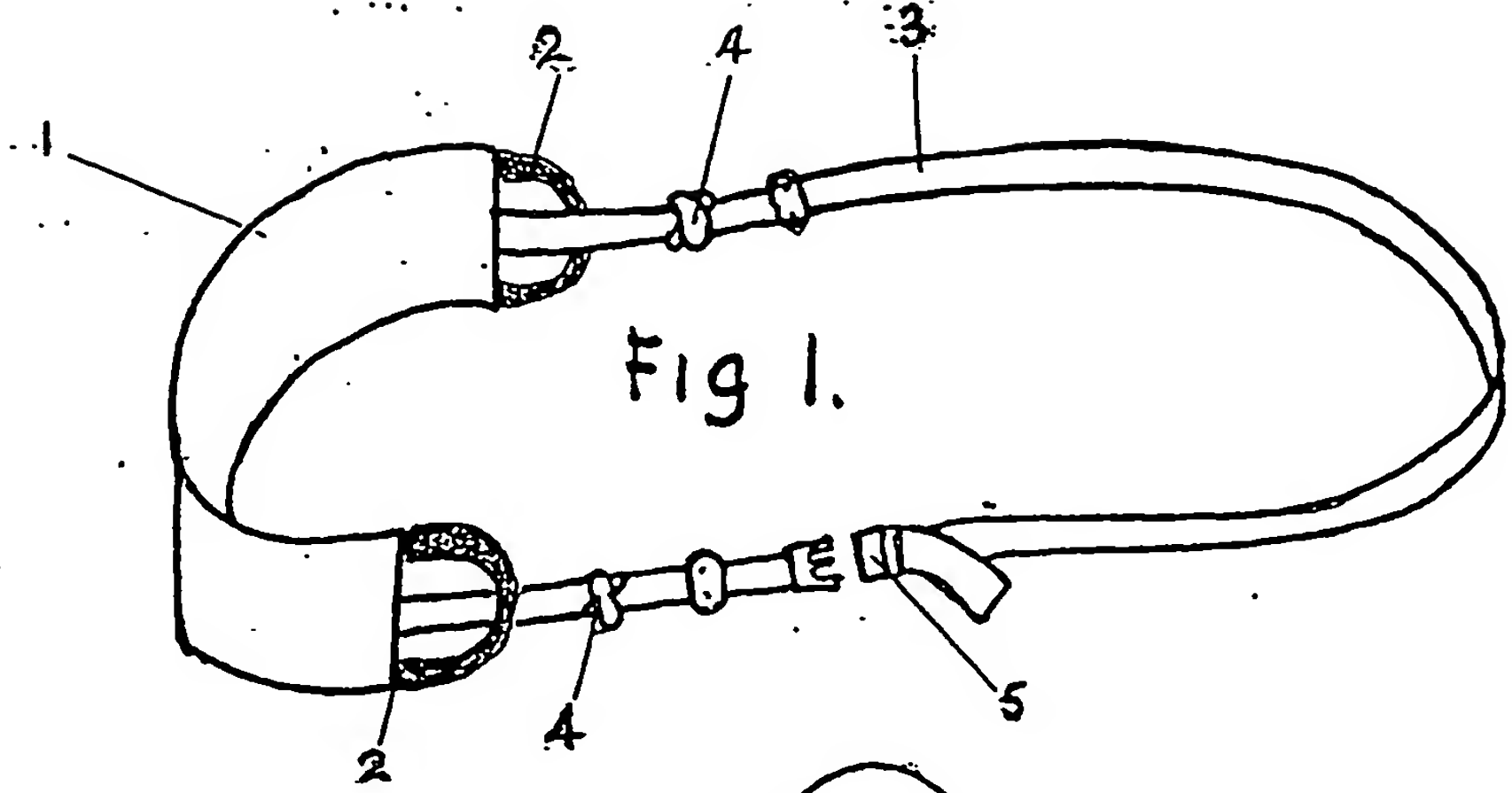
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(54) Invalid lifting device

(57) A lifting aid for an incapacitated person has a wide portion 1 to spread the load across the back of that person 6, fitted with handles 2 and adjustable strap 3 to enable a helper 7 to apply body weight and arm strength in raising and lowering the incapacitated person from and to a sitting position.



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LIFTING AID FOR INCAPACITATED PERSONS

This invention relates to a lifting aid for incapacitated persons.

To raise an incapacitated person from a sitting position to a standing position is always difficult. The normal method - whereby one helper, facing the sitter, places his or her arms under the armpits then around the back of the sitting person - is often awkward and sometimes is impossible when the person is large and heavy.

This invention relates to means by which a helper is more readily able to raise, in a gentle but effective manner, a sitting person to a standing position.

The apparatus comprises a strap arrangement - preferably made of webbing, nylon or other suitable material - having a generally wide portion which may be fitted with grips or handles. Attached to this wide portion a longer but less wide portion completes a circle. The narrow portion may be adjustable for length using a buckle which incorporates a quick-release device and may also incorporate handles or grips - possibly knots or bulges in the material.

The helper (standing immediately in front of and facing the sitter) may place the wide portion of the apparatus around the back and under the armpits of the sitting person, adjust the narrow portion to lie securely across his or her own shoulder regions and, grasping the grips or handles, exert body weight and arm strength to assist the sitting person to an erect position, using an extended foot towards the sitter to act as a fulcrum.

By way of example a specific embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing in which :-

Fig. 1 shows in perspective the apparatus complete, where:

- 1 shows the wide portion
- 2 shows the grips or handles
- 3 shows the narrow portion
- 4 shows the knots in the material as an alternative holding position
- 5 shows the adjustable quick-release buckle.

Fig 2 shows the method of operation where:

The wide portion of the apparatus 1 is placed around the back and under the armpits of the sitting person 6;

The narrow portion 3 is placed around the shoulders of the helper 7 and adjusted to lie securely thereon;

The handles or grips 2 to be grasped by the helper;

The extended forward foot 8 of the helper 7 is used as a fulcrum.

Once the sitting person is erect and steady, the quick-release buckle (5 Fig. 1) may be operated to allow the apparatus to be removed

Similar means may be used to lower a person from, for example, a walking frame.

By way of example the dimensions of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 are

Wide portion	:	100mm x 750mm
Narrow portion	:	50mm x 2500mm

CLAIMS

- 1 A lifting aid for incapacitated persons comprising a wide strap arrangement to be placed around the back of a sitting person and fitted with handles. Attached to this portion a longer strap, adjustable for length, to be placed around the shoulders of a helper to enable the helper to use body weight and arm strength to raise a sitting person to an erect position.
- 2 A lifting aid for incapacitated persons as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a wide portion of the strap is provided to spread the load around a substantial part of a sitting person's back.
- 3 A lifting aid for incapacitated persons as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the wide portion is fitted with handles.
- 4 A lifting aid for incapacitated persons as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the longer portion is adjustable for length.
- 5 A lifting aid for incapacitated persons as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the longer portion is provided with means for quick release.
- 6 A lifting aid for incapacitated persons as claimed in Claim 4 or Claim 5 wherein the longer portion is provided with grips.
- 7 A lifting aid for incapacitated persons substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1 and 2.